

In this 1912 novel, Mary Hunter Austin (1868-1934) draws inspiration from her own life to tell the story of a gifted woman caught between her public ambition and her private desire. Beginning with her post-Civil War Midwestern girlhood, Austin chronicles the tumultuous life -- its romantic and artistic challenges -- of "tragic actress" Olivia Lattimore. With lyrical insight, she explores the many social and economic obstacles talented women like Olivia face in their pursuit of self-fulfillment. In America's cynical Gilded Age, Austin asks, can a "woman of genius" find both happiness and success? Summary by Amy Dunkleberger

Read by Amy Dunkleberger . Total running time: 13:37:12

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WOMAN OF GENIUS Mary Hunter Austin